Philosophy 3 – Historical Introduction to Philosophy (5 units)

With video lectures by Dr. Brian Copenhaver

Instructor of Record, Summer 2018: Andrew Lavin

UCLA Department of Philosophy

THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Course Website on CCLE.UCLA.edu

INTRODUCTION TO PHILOSOPHY 3

Philosophy 3 is a historical introduction to Western philosophy based on classical texts dealing with such topics as rational argument, causality, mind and matter, God, the soul, evil, life and death. The themes of the course revolve around some of the recurring themes from the time of Plato (about 400 BCE) through the time of Descartes (about 1700 CE). The focus is on Greek and European philosophy.

The course is a regular offering of UCLA’s Philosophy Department during the academic year. When offered online in summer session, the course covers the same material and applies the same standards of evaluation.

PHILOSOPHY 3 ONLINE

Using a web browser, a podcast device, or other devices, students see and hear talks by Professor Copenhaver discussing the main topics of the course, which are all taken from assigned readings. Evaluation is by a short analysis paper, written midterm and final examinations, responses to problems posted online (see below), and participation in live online conversations (see below), guided by Teaching Assistants from UCLA’s Philosophy Department.

TIME AND EFFORT

Since Philosophy 3 is a 5-credit course, the time required of students, on average, is 15 hours/week for 10 weeks, or 150 hours in total, when the course is taught during the academic year.

When the course is taught in a six-week summer session, since the material covered and the standards of evaluation are the same, the time and effort required of students are also the same: 150 hours, on average, or 25 hours/week in a six-week summer session. For the summer offering of Philosophy 3, that much time will be needed to

(a) read, re-read and think about the assigned readings;
(b) view, review and think about Professor Copenhaver’s talks;
(c) Re-read the week’s material;
(d) study for mid-term and final examinations;
(e) complete mid-term and final examinations;
(f) post responses to questions posted by your TA;
(g) participate in on-line discussions;
(h) talk online with TAs about the course and course material.

Please do not underestimate the time needed to complete these tasks. This will be at least a half-time job.

READINGS
The following are required readings: those marked ‘B’ are inexpensive paperback books that must be bought, in the editions indicated; those marked ‘W’ are short selections that will be made available to students online.

B Thomas Nagel, What Does It All Mean? A Very Short Introduction to Philosophy (Oxford)
B Plato, Phaedo, trans. G.M.A. Grube (Hackett)
B Anselm, Proslogion with the Replies of Guanilo and Anselm, trans. T. Williams (Hackett)
W Graham Priest, Logic: A Very Short Introduction, selections
W Aristotle, metaphysics 12, selections
W Augustine, Confessions, chapter 7, selections
W Peter Lombard, Sentences, selections
W Peter Abelard, Yes and No. selections
W Christina Van Dyke, “Mysticism,” selections
W Hildegard of Bingen, Scivias, selections
W Thomas Aquinas, Summa theologica, selections
W Thomas Aquinas, Summa contra gentiles, selections
W Avicenna, The Book of Healing, selections
W Al-Ghazali, Deliverance from Error, selections

Books are available at the UCLA Bookstore—either on campus or online. They are also available at other stores and from online booksellers such as Amazon.com.

Readings are short: the longest are small books; the shortest are very brief excerpts from larger texts. The rate of reading required by the course is 85 pages/week over 6 weeks. However, these short texts cannot be read quickly with understanding. All need to be read and re-read – many times, in some cases – and then thought about. There are required readings listed in the schedule below, (with recommendations in parentheses that you read the whole texts as they are supplied).

EVALUATION
Final grades will be based on:

A. an argument analysis paper (10%)
B. a mid-term examination (30%)
C. a final examination (30%)
D. discussion board responses and online discussions (30%)
Full instructions will be available on CCLE, but here are the short descriptions:

**A. Argument-Analysis:** Students will, early in the course, submit a short analysis of one argument presented in Nagel’s *What does it all mean?* This is primarily to gauge your writing and to give you some feedback on your writing to help you adapt to the expectations of the course (and the particular expectations of philosophical writing). The bulk of the feedback on your writing will be provided with this assignment. However, this will also give you a chance to think a bit more deeply about one argument in the text that you found intriguing.

**B and C. Examinations:** For mid-term and final examinations, students will submit written answers to “take-home” questions about the assigned readings, as described in on-line talks given by Professor Copenhaver. Incomplete answers are the most common reason for low grades.

**D. Discussion Board Responses and Online Discussions:** During each week of the course, students will be required to participate in the course’s online discussion board. The requirement is (i) to post brief responses to problems stated and questions asked by TAs and (ii) to comment on responses made by other students.

*Online Sections:* Students are required to participate in live discussion sections with a Teaching Assistant and fellow students via the course website. You signed up for a discussion section time when you registered for class. Sections either meet once per week for 90 minutes or twice per week for 45 minutes each. Discussion section video conferences are mandatory; unless you participate, your grade on part C of your evaluation (30% of your total grade) will not be a passing grade. Please make sure your chosen time allows you to participate in all weekly sessions with a reliable, fast internet connection. In discussions, the minimal requirement is to show broad familiarity with assigned readings and online talks. Better grades come from participating frequently, energetically and effectively by identifying relevant issues, analyzing arguments, choosing helpful examples, explaining what examples show, responding with counterexamples, and so on.

**ONLINE ADVISING**

Throughout the whole course, TAs will be available online not only for scheduled discussion periods, as described above, but also for unscheduled advising.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

UCLA’s policies on academic integrity and student conduct may be found at http://www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu/Portals/16/Documents/UCLACodeOfConduct_Rev030416.pdf

Taking Philosophy 3 online creates special opportunities for students to talk with each other online about philosophy. We encourage students to do so, and this encouragement applies to preparing for written mid-term and final examinations. Needless to say, however, any written assignment must be solely the work of the student who turns it in. Compiling a written assignment by pasting together extracts from websites is, of course, unacceptable – a form of plagiarism. This and other types of plagiarism will be detected and reported.
SCHEDULE OF TALKS AND READINGS

Week One

Lesson 1: Introduction
Reading: - Thomas Nagel, *What Does It All Mean?* chs. 1-4; 9-10 (recommended: read all chs)
Lecture: - Prof. Copenhaver, Video 1

Week Two

Lesson 2: Philosophy as Training for Death I
Reading: - Plato, *Phaedo*, pp. 6-28 (57a-77c)
Lecture: - Prof. Copenhaver, Video 2
Lesson 3: Philosophy as Training for Death II
Reading: - Plato, *Phaedo*, pp. 28-46 (77e-95a)
Lecture: - Prof. Copenhaver, Video 3
Lesson 4: Philosophy as Training for Death III
Reading: - Plato, *Phaedo*, pp. 46-67 (95a-118a)
Lecture: - Prof. Copenhaver, Video 4

Week Three

Lesson 5: God at the End of an Argument I
Reading: - Aristotle, *Metaphysics* 12, selections
Lecture: - Prof. Copenhaver, Video 5
Lesson 6: God at the End of an Argument II
Reading: - Aristotle, *Metaphysics* 12, selections
Lecture: - Prof. Copenhaver, Video 6

Week Four

Lesson 7: Faith Seeks Understanding
Reading: - Augustine, *Confessions*, selections
          - Abelard, *Yes and No*, selections
          - Lombard, *Sentences*, selections
          - Christina Van Dyke, “Mysticism,” selections
- Hildegard of Bingen, *Scivias*, selections

**Lecture:**
- Prof. Copenhaver, Video 7, part 1
- Prof. Copenhaver, Video 7, part 2
- Prof. Copenhaver, Video 7, part 3
- Peter Adamson, *History of Philosophy without any Gaps*, Episode 221: Leading Light: Hildegard of Bingen (Link on CCLE)

**Week Five**

**Lesson 8:** That Than Which Nothing Greater Can Be Thought

**Reading:**
- Anselm, *Proslogion*, ch. 1-3 (recommended: read the whole Proslogion)
- Gaunilo, *Reply on Behalf of the Fool*, pp. 28-33
- (Recommended: Anselm, *Reply to Gaunilo*, pp. 36-46)

**Lecture:**
- Prof. Copenhaver, Video 8

**Lesson 9:** Five Ways

**Reading:**
- Aquinas, *Summa of Theology*, selections
- Aquinas, *Summa Against the Heathens*, selections

**Lecture:**
- Prof. Copenhaver, Video 9

**Week Six**

**FINAL DUE**

**Lesson 10:** Doubts about Everything

**Reading:**
- Descartes, *Discourse on the Method*, parts 1-4
- Avicenna, *The Book of Healing*, selections
- Al-Ghazali, *Deliverance from Error*, selections

**Lecture:**
- Prof. Copenhaver, Video 10

- Peter Adamson, *History of Philosophy without any Gaps*: Episode 141, Into Thin Air: Avicenna on the Soul (Link on CCLE)
- Peter Adamson, *History of Philosophy without any Gaps*: Episode 143, Special Delivery: Al-Ghazali (Link on CCLE)